

# Virginia Citizen.

A Weekly Journal Devoted to the Interests of Lancaster County in Particular, the Northern Neck and Rappahannock Valley in General, and the World at Large.

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NUMBER 30.

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The Norfolk Landmark recently said:  
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The Virginia Farm Journal,  
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## JOHN L. SULLIVAN ON SICK BED.

Meeting Between the Great Fagillist and Bob Fitzsimmons.

Two former monarchs of the prize ring met one day last week under rather pathetic circumstances. They were John L. Sullivan, Boston's greatest fight idol, and Robert J. Fitzsimmons, one of the most remarkable pugilists in the history of the ring.

The meeting of the ex-champions was an embarrassing one. One—the great John L., perhaps the most picturesque character that ever graced the prize ring—battered and wrecked from disease and the excesses of high living, lay in a bed at the home that he years ago presented to his sister, Mrs. Lennon. The once mighty gladiator had lost all of his old-time vim and vigor.

Add to his general ill health, the spectacle of the former great fighter looking through a pair of deep blue goggles and the broken-down athlete with monstrous flowing mustache of white, and his white hair, and the picture of dejection and physical wreck is complete.

"The one was a broken-down man, almost still in the prime of life—for Sullivan is only forty-five; the other a robust, agile athlete, still ready to do battle with the most spry young man in the boxing world. Fitzsimmons is forty-two. One has lived a quiet, careful life, the other has tasted the sweets too often.

The party was ushered in by Sullivan's sister. The bright sunlight was shut out by closely drawn curtains. Then in deep, guttural tones from the bed came a hearty "Hello, Bob."

There was no mistaking the owner of that thunderous voice. Fitz strode over to the bedside and grasped the hand and extended toward him. The two great fighters were visibly affected. Sullivan raised himself on his elbow and looked steadily at Fitz through his glasses for some few seconds. "How are you, John?" said Fitz when the big fellow showed signs of rousing his vice-like grip.

After the first few words an embarrassing silence ensued, for no one cared about broaching the question of the ex-champion's sickness. But he soon broke the silence by saying: "You see, I'm down and out, but I'll be up and around in a few days. My stomach, John, I don't see but what you're right. Why, they told me that you were an invalid and all broke up. I can't see anything the matter with you, and if it wasn't for those things on your eyes you'd look as good as ever."

In a deep, guttural voice John L. replied: "Bob, there's nothing to it. I'll be around all right in a little while, and then it's Baden Springs, Hot Springs or some other sulphur bath for me."

"I've been taking two or three kinds of medicine since I came home here to my sister's, but I'm going to quit taking the stuff in a day or two. It's no good. I never did believe much in medicine."

"They won't plant me. When I go, they'll burn me. That's the game for me, Bob! Cremation, that's what they call it. Nothin' left but your ashes, and each of your friends can have some of you to remember you by. It's the most natural thing in the world—let them burn you up when you're all in. I tell you, it's the proper thing."

The logic of Sullivan did not meet with the approval of Fitzsimmons, and quite a lengthy discussion followed on the merits of the subject.

Fitz was becoming more at ease and talked more freely. His natural wit toward Jim Corbett crept out, and the man who whipped out the man who beat Sullivan said he would box Corbett four or six rounds at Sullivan's benefit, and he did not want a cent for his services.

Sullivan then chinned in that Corbett—"Well, Bob, he licked me and beat me on the level."

"Yes, John, but you were not yourself then. Why, I remember, I sat at the ringside, and if you remember, you nearly nailed him in the very first round. I don't think I will ever forget it. It was with a right swing and just missed him by an eighth of an inch."

"Lord, but it was a wallop, and if it ever landed, there would have been no more of Corbett. It came so close to landing right here—" and Fitz pointed out the spot on his own chin where it landed.

"I pulled my own head back and it struck a fellow sitting in the chair behind me in the face."

"But Corbett pulled his head back, too," said Fitz, almost sorrowfully. And so the talk went on for over an hour.

Fitzsimmons promised his old friend, who is now in needy circumstances, that he would count on him to come over and do what he could to help the old fellow along at his benefit and thought it would be a good card for him to box someone four or six rounds. He said: "If we could only get Corbett to come over and spar with me, wouldn't it be great?"

But John said that such a thing was impossible in this city now. Just before the meeting ended Fitz's health. John once more reassured the party that he would be all right before long, and he said that he had learned a good lesson during the present illness.

"Why, we read about this millionaire—what's his name? Rockefeller—who is worth \$300,000,000, and has no stomach to eat with. Well,

that gent and myself are in the same boat, only I haven't any \$300,000,000."

Sullivan noticed the camera which the photographer of the party carried, and asked what it was for. He was told that they hoped to get a photograph of him and Fitz as they met, but that as he was aged, of course, such a thing was impossible.

"Impossible? No, I guess not, my boy. If there's any people I like to oblige, it's the newspaper fellows—great boys they are. They will do me good for a man than all the preachers in creation. You'll always find me ready to oblige reporters any time it's within my power. What do you say, Bob?"

Bob acquiesced, and then the great John L. lifted himself to a sitting position and put his legs outside the bed.

That was the most pathetic incident of the visit. With fatherly care Bob Fitzsimmons placed his broad back and held him comfortably while the latter arranged himself. When everything was apparently ready Fitz glanced down and noticed that a part of Sullivan's legs were uncovered, and the picture-taking operation had to be postponed until the sympathetic Fitz had wrapped him carefully in the clothes. It was touching.

A Thoughtful Man.

M. M. Austin of Winchester, Ind., knew what to do in the hour of need. His wife had such an unusual case of stomach and liver trouble, physicians could not help her. He thought of and tried Dr. King's New Life Pills and she got relief at once and was cured. Only 25c. at R. C. Richardson, Kilmarcock, T. J. Hayden & Son, Irvington.

Alcohol Kills The Unit.

"Alcohol is an agent which is a food or a harmless luxury for the strong, the vigorous or the self-reliant, and a deadly poison to the undesirable elements of society," said Dr. Woods Hutchinson, secretary of State board of health, before the Oregon State conference of charities and correction.

DISSENTION ON MAN AND THE MOSQUITO.

The following is a description of the relation which the mosquito bears to the human family. First—What will ask what is man? Man is an amphibious, plantigrade, hypotetrad, quadruped of the genus *homo* or *hominid*, carnivorous in some respects, herbivorous in some respects, and gregarious in all. He lives principally on the coast, herring, water and bread. He does not live alone, but usually has another man living with him called the woman. Now let's proceed to define mosquito. The mosquito is a high-bred, carnivorous, digitigrade, indeterminate biped, a member of the genus *Culex*, closely allied to the *Anopheles*. Habits precarious, similar to those of man. His food is chiefly raw meats, but he is also, like man, very fond of ham and eggs, ice cream and oysters. Another point—The mosquito is a high-bred, carnivorous, digitigrade, indeterminate biped, a member of the genus *Culex*, closely allied to the *Anopheles*. Habits precarious, similar to those of man. 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